backward, predominantly inhabited by illiterate population and are poverty stricken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*'Literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh' as per 1991 Census*

| Name of the District | Literacy Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Chamba | 44.70 | 59.96 | 28.57 |
| Kangra | 70.57 | 80.12 | 61.39 |
| Hamirpur | 74.88 | 85.11 | 65.90 |
| Una | 70.91 | 81.15 | 61.01 |
| Bilaspur | 67.17 | 77.97 | 56.55 |
| Mandi | 62.74 | 76.65 | 49.12 |
| Kullu | 54.82 | 69.64 | 38.53 |
| Lahaul & Spiti | 56.82 | 71.78 | 38.05 |
| Shimla | 64.61 | 75.96 | 51.75 |
| Solan | 63.30 | 74.67 | 50.69 |
| Sirmour | 51.62 | 63.20 | 38.45 |
| Kinnaur | 58.36 | 72.04 | 42.04 |

**Extension and Development of Aravali Forest Area**

†*32. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds sanctioned by the Central Government for extension and development of Aravali Forest area during 1998-99 and the plan under consideration for development of that area; and

(b) whether any scheme for external assistance for the extension of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pushkar region in Rajasthan has been approved; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Government, Rs. 1531.26 lakhs was provided during 1998-99 to the States of Rajasthan, Haryana & Gujarat, parts of which fall in Aravali mountain range as per following details:—

| Sl. No. | Name of the Schemes | Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Scheme | 498.58 |
| 2. | Area Oriented Fuelwood & Fodder Project Scheme | 778.20 |
| 3. | Non-Timber Forest Produce Scheme | 224.53 |
| 4. | Association of Scheduled Tribes & Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme (AST&RP) | 29.95 |
| | TOTAL | 1531.26 |

Under externally aided forestry projects Rs. 80.95 crores were provided to the States for development of Aravali Region as per details given below:—

| State | Rs. in crores |
|---|---|
| Rajasthan | 49.86 |
| Haryana | 10.48 |
| Gujarat | 20.61 |
| Total | 80.95 |

No new project proposal for afforestation in Aravali area is presently under consideration for assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. However, a project proposal entitled "Aravali Forestry Project" has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan at a total cost of Rs. 555.75 crores to treat 145000 ha. of land in 12 districts of Aravali hills over a period of eight years for possible external assistance by some donor agency.

(b) A project entitled "Integrated Watershed Management and Water Storage in Pushkar Lake Area" has been sanctioned for Pushkar Lake area, Ajmer district under India-Canada Environment Facility (ICEF) for eco-regeneration and environmentally sustainable management of the project area. Contribution approved by ICEF for the project period 1.4.97 to 31.3.2000 is Rs. 3.01 crores against which Rs. 2.2 crores has been disbursed so far. The project is implemented by Directorate of Watershed Development and Soil Conservation (DWDSC), Government of Rajasthan (GoR).